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BOOK REVIEWS

Studies in American Trade Unionism. Edited by JACOB H. HOLLANDER AND GEORGE E. BARNETT. New York: Henry Holt & Co., 1906. 8vo, pp. v+380.

Trade Unionism and Labor Problems. Edited with an Introduction by JOHN R. COMMONS. Boston: Ginn & Co. 8vo, pp. xiv+628.

These two volumes, more especially and avowedly the *Studies* edited by Professor Hollander and Associate Barnett, may be characterized as reports of progress in the study of the labor problem, so far as regards organization of labor into trade unions in the United States.

The *Studies* are the work of the Economic Seminary at Johns Hopkins University, which in 1902 "undertook, under the direction of the editor, an investigation of the history, activities, and influence of labor organizations in the United States."

The collection of essays constituting the present volume are the result of these studies. It should be distinctly understood that they mark a stage, and not a goal, in the inquiry. It is understood that each investigator will examine in turn the experience of all important American unions in their relation to the subject of his particular study, and such further inquiries are now actually in progress. At the same time, it seems clear that the description of the experience of carefully selected unions possesses enough value in itself to warrant publication.

An examination of the essays amply justifies the editors in their conclusion to publish, and it is sincerely hoped that their plans of further work will be fulfilled.

The several unions of which historical and descriptive studies are made in this volume are the Typographical Union, Cigar-Makers' Union, Iron-Molders' Union, Machinists' Union, Employees' Association, Building Trades, Railway Unions, Knights of Labor, and the American Federation of Labor. In each case the organization has been selected with reference to some special feature of labor organization and practice, and the several essays are presented as special "studies" in trade-union government, structure, finances, wage agreements, collective bargaining, and benefits.

Professor Hollander in a brief introductory chapter calls attention to the fact that no such systematic and comprehensive study of American trade-unionism has been achieved as that done for English unions by Sydney and Beatrice Webb and that such a study can hardly be undertaken by any single individual, with any very certain prospect of carrying it through to completion. It must rather, he believes, be a work of co-operation and division of labor. It might be observed in this connection that one cannot easily conceive any chapter in the Webbs books to have been written by anyone but the Webbs themselves, since each chapter manifests a unity of purpose, a point of view and an underlying social philosophy common to all and somewhat peculiar to the authors. If any paragraph in the whole work had been honestly written by another hand, one feels that the argument must have faltered. And just those qualities which distinguished the Webbs treatises must, it would seem, be lacking in any work of co-operation, however well done. It does not follow at all, however, that the scientific worth of co-operative work is in any way impaired by its lack of single-mindedness. Quite the contrary. Single-mindedness not infrequently takes the form of narrow-mindedness or prejudice—especially in the social sciences. In fact, we are inclined to believe that the appearance of two such treatises as the above marks the progress of the social sciences from the stage of speculation to that of demonstration. Much in the writings of economists, and, with due apologies to the sociologists, more that is written as sociology, is not properly scientific, but is rather philosophic. Philosophy, whether it be social or other, cannot be co-operatively written. It is essentially individualistic and opinionative. Science, economic or other, can be advanced by co-operative work, since it is positive and descriptive. While, therefore, the production of another *Industrial Democracy* or *Trade Unionism* through co-operative effort would be nothing less than miraculous, something even more scientific may be achieved. The co-operative method is admirably adapted to the gathering of material, in the form of historical and descriptive essays, upon which advance of the science absolutely depends—upon which also it may be added, social philosophy itself depends, in so far as it is not purely speculative and removed from the real world—that is to say, fictitious in character.

As indicated in the title, the volume edited by Professor Com-

mons is somewhat wider in scope than that of the essays considered above. The volume constitutes one in the series of "Selections and Documents in Economics," edited by Professor Ripley, of Harvard University, and includes, besides "symposiums" and court decisions, the writings of some eighteen different contributors. With most of the material included economists are generally familiar, but the assembling of the material in one volume provides an excellent textbook for classes making a study of labor problems. Included in the selections are papers by Professor Commons upon "Trade Agreements," "The Teamsters of Chicago," "The New York Building Trades," "Labor Conditions in Slaughtering and Meat-Packing," "The Sweating System in the Clothing Trade," and "Slavs in Coal Mining;" a paper upon "The Miners' Union: Its Business Management," by Frank Julian Warne; upon "The Chicago Building Trades Dispute of 1900," by Ernest L. Bogart; two symposiums deal respectively with "Incorporation of Trade Unions," and "The Negro Artisan;" two chapters present "Court Decisions in Labor Disputes," and "Regarding State Regulation of Employment;" the other papers treat of "State arbitration and the Minimum Wage in Australasia," "Introduction of the Linotype," "Premium Plan of Paying for Labor," "Employment and Wages of Women and Girls," "Hours of Labor," "Apprenticeship," "Labor Legislation," "Trade Union Benefits," "Employers' Liability," and "Workingmen's Insurance."

It would quite exceed the limits of a review to undertake any detailed comments upon these papers further than to observe that the editor has, we believe, succeeded in his effort to create something more than "merely a handy volume for reference, or collection of original documents," and has in fact produced a textbook, or rather case-book, thereby carrying out Professor Ripley's intention of extending the *case system* to the teaching of economics.

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The Comedy of Protection. By YVES GUYOT. Translated by M. A. Hamilton. London: Hodder & Stoughton, 1906. 8vo, pp. xxxi+325.

The author of the *Comedy* points out that he might have given his treatise a more sounding title than the one he has chosen, such as "The Protectionist Tyranny," or "The Protectionist Oligarchy," or the "Work of Death," but that he has preferred comedy to